

# Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 6<sup>th</sup> Edition

## DIBELS

### *DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency Progress Monitoring Third Grade Student Materials*

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Available:

<http://dibels.uoregon.edu/>

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## A Present From Me

I wanted to take my stepmother out to dinner for her birthday and pay for our dinner with my own money. I wanted it to be a surprise and I wanted it to be just from me. The problem was, I didn't have any money!

I went out to try to find ways to earn money. The lady who lives in the apartment upstairs said she wanted to get rid of all her empty soda cans and bottles. She said I could keep the money for the deposit if I took all of the cans and bottles back to the store. It took me five trips, but I got them all taken back to the store.

The man in the apartment downstairs said I could walk his dog after supper every night for two weeks. Our neighbor lady said she could use some help putting out the trash and getting rid of old newspapers. One lady in our building said she would like some help with her groceries, but she couldn't afford to pay me. I helped her anyway. She said she would give me some flowers to give to my stepmother.

The day before her birthday I asked Mom if she would go on a date with me for dinner. She was surprised when I paid for the dinner with the money I had earned. She made me tell her where I had gotten the money. Then she gave me a big hug and said it was the best birthday present ever. I think she liked the flowers the best of all.

## The Olympic Games

Our whole family watched the Olympics last summer. We didn't have to travel anywhere to see the games. We watched them on TV in our family room.

The Olympics are held every four years. There is both a summer Olympics and a winter Olympics. My favorite sports in the summer are swimming and track and field. In the winter, my favorites are sledding and ice skating. The skaters are so skilled that they make skating look easy, even though it isn't. I like to watch their jumps and spins.

The athletes who come in first, second, and third place receive medals. First place is gold and second place is silver. The third place medal is bronze. When they get their medals, the athletes stand beneath their country's flag. His or her country's song is played for everyone to hear.

The Olympic Games have been around for two hundred years. They began with only one race. The games soon grew to last five days and more sports were added. The Olympics had strange rules at first. One rule was that only men could be in the games or even watch.

Today, both women and men take part in over twenty different sports. The athletes come from all around the world. The games always open with a parade and the lighting of the Olympic flame from a burning torch. Teams of runners carry the torch from the site of the first games all the way to the country hosting the games.

## Mother's Day

My stepfather and I surprised Mom on Mother's Day. We got up very early in the morning and fixed her breakfast. We planned the surprise the day before. We went to the grocery store and bought food and real flowers to make the breakfast special. We decided to bake waffles and serve them with fresh strawberries and whipped cream. We know Mom likes strawberry waffles because she had them once when we went out for breakfast.

We told Mom to sleep in as long as she wanted. We said, "When you wake up, just knock on the kitchen door but don't come into the kitchen."

I washed the strawberries and removed the tops. Then I put silverware and a plate on a tray and Dad put the flowers in a little vase. Dad made the special coffee Mom loves. Then I helped Dad make the waffles. We used a waffle mix so it would be easier. We had to heat up the waffle iron first. The first waffle didn't turn out too well so Dad said I could eat it. It tasted excellent even if it looked funny!

The next waffle was perfect. Just when we had the waffles all figured out, Mom knocked on the kitchen door. We put a waffle on the plate and spooned the berries on it. Then I squirted whipped cream over the top.

We walked up to the bedroom and tapped on the door. Mom said, "Come in!"

She said it was the best breakfast she had ever tasted.

## Surprise Party

My dad had his fortieth birthday last month, so my mom planned a big surprise party for him. She said I could assist with the party, but that I had to keep the party a secret. She said I couldn't tell my dad because that would spoil the surprise.

I helped Mom organize the guest list and write the invitations. I was responsible for making sure everyone was included. I also addressed all the envelopes and put stamps and return addresses on them. We wrote the invitations before Dad came home from work. We had to sneak them to the post office so Dad wouldn't see them. We planned to have the party at Dad's friend's house. All of the guests were supposed to come early so Dad wouldn't be suspicious. Dad thought he was just having dinner with his friend.

Every time I looked at Dad before the party I thought about the secret. It was very hard not to say something. I thought I had to tell someone or I would burst. I decided to whisper my secret to my pet cat because I knew she could be discreet.

Finally the day of the party came. Everybody waited at our friend's house with the lights turned off and everyone hidden. Then Dad rang the doorbell and Dad's friend opened the door. We all yelled, "Surprise!" Dad was so shocked he was speechless. Dad's brothers and parents were there. All his friends from work came, and even some old friends from high school were there.

## The Sun

Did you know sunshine actually comes from a star? That's because the sun is a star just like the millions of stars in the sky. The sun is so big that more than a million Earths can fit inside it. The sun is not the biggest star, though. Many stars are actually bigger and brighter. The sun looks bigger and brighter because the Earth is closer to the sun than any other star.

The sun is a huge ball of glowing gases. It's so hot you could never touch it. The temperature of the surface is one hundred times hotter than the hottest summer day. Sometimes the sun's surface gets so hot it creates solar flares. Sometimes solar flares cause difficulty on Earth. Solar flares can cause static on radio stations. When solar flares are large, they can even cause electric power failures.

The sun's energy reaches us in the form of heat, light, and radio waves. The sun is millions of miles away from us. It takes the sunlight about eight minutes to travel to the Earth.

The sun gives us light and heat. Without it, no plants, animals, or humans could grow or survive. The sun gives off so much light it can be converted into solar energy. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity. Solar cells can be used to provide power for cars and lights. Some solar cells are as small as a stick of gum and some are as big as a football field.

## My Dad Goes to School

My dad goes to school just like me. My sister is in second grade and I am in fourth grade. My dad isn't in a grade. He goes to school at the community college where he is studying computer science. Every morning he walks with my sister and me to the bus stop. We all ride the same bus to my school and then he says goodbye to us.

We all ride the bus home in the afternoon, but at different times. My sister and I get home first. As soon as Dad arrives, the three of us sit down at the kitchen table and do our homework together. I think Dad has the most homework. After he gets his homework done, my dad goes to his job and works until midnight. When he gets home it's very late and the rest of the family is sound asleep.

Dad says he is studying hard because he wants a better job. He says he's looking forward to being home in the evenings and relaxing with all of us. In another year he will finish his degree and he can find a better job.

I admire my dad. Sometimes when I'm not in the mood to do my homework he pats me on the shoulder and says, "You're doing very well. You keep it up and you won't have to go to school when you're an old guy like me."

## Satellites

I like to look up at the sky at night. I like to look at the stars and find different constellations. I can find the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper. The Big Dipper always points to the North Star. The North Star is an important star because it helps people who are lost to find their way.

My favorite object to watch for in the night sky moves quickly across the sky and you have to be alert to see it. It's a satellite. Satellites look like tiny dots of light and travel from side to side without blinking or stopping. Satellites are different from planes because they do not make any noise.

Satellites circle the Earth hundreds of miles above the ground. Some satellites have cameras to take photos of land and sea. Some look out into space and send back information about stars and planets. Others watch weather patterns and send weather reports back to Earth.

The first satellite was launched from Russia. It was named Sputnik and had a radio that sent signals back to Earth. Sputnik went around and around the Earth for thirteen weeks. Modern satellites can stay in the sky for years. One satellite, Skylab, even has people living in it. It is fun to think of people living up there.

## Elephants

Elephants are some of the largest and smartest animals on Earth. There are two types of elephants: Asian and African. Asian elephants are found in the forests of India and Southeast Asia. They are often caught and trained to help people do heavy work. People use them to clear forests and tow heavy logs. The elephants' handlers often become good friends with the elephants.

Most African elephants live in preserves where they are protected from hunters. Preserves also help keep them from damaging crops and fields. African elephants have very large ears that they flap to scare off other animals or to keep cool. They have long ivory tusks.

Both kinds of elephants have very long trunks. They use their trunks to reach down to the ground and high into trees to find food. Plants and leaves and small branches from trees are their favorite foods. The trunk is also used for drinking, smelling, and greeting other elephants. Sometimes they even use their trunk like a snorkel in deep water. Elephants like to raise their trunks full of water and give themselves a shower.

Most people only see elephants in zoos or circuses. Sometimes they have learned to do tricks like standing on their hind legs or hooking their trunks around another elephant's tail. Someday I'd like to see some elephants in the wild.

## The Sea Park

I like to go to the sea park. There are all kinds of sea life in different areas of the park. Some areas are for animals like sea lions that swim and dive. In the sea lion area there are windows that are partly below the water so visitors can watch what happens under the water. The last time I was at the sea park, I watched the sea lions have lunch. A trainer tossed fish into their pool. The sea lions quickly swam and grabbed the fish.

Another area of the sea park shows how sea plants live in deep water. You could see their tops, middles, and bottoms. You could even see the crabs and clams that live at their base.

In another part people can walk inside a glass tube while the fish swim all around. Once when I was in the tube a shark came right up to my face. It feels as if the fish are swimming freely and it's the people who are in the tank. There is also an area for the shorebirds that live along the ocean cliffs. I liked the sea birds with the large gold bills. They spend a lot of time grooming their feathers.

My favorite sea creatures at the sea park are the jellyfish. They float around inside huge tanks. They look like lacy hats with long ribbons flowing below. They fill up with water and squeeze it out to move. As the jellyfish move it reminds me of a dance. I could watch them for hours.

## I Belong to a Big Family

I belong to a big family. My three brothers, two sisters, and grandma all live in our house. That makes nine people in our family! You can bet it gets pretty busy sometimes. We have rules because we have such a big family and my parents want to make sure no one gets left out.

Our rules are not the same kind of rules we have at school, like sitting in your seat before the bell rings. We have rules about homework, TV, housework, and keeping our rooms clean. My parents say we need to be organized and everybody has to do their part.

This is how our rules work. If all of us finish our homework by supertime, we can watch TV together. Children who have not finished their homework have to stay in their rooms without the radio on. If all of us do our share helping with the laundry and housework, we get to watch a video together. If we all eat our dinner, we can have dessert. Grandma usually bakes a pie or cookies.

My dad says being in a big family is like having a job. We all have to be responsible and do our part. When all the work is finished, we get to relax and have fun together. My favorite time is when the chores are done and we play games. We have lots of games to choose from. The game I like best of all is spoons because it's fun to play with nine people.

## I'm an African American

Many people in America have ancestors who once lived in Africa. Africa is the second-largest continent in the world and it has many different nations and languages. My great-great-great grandmother was born in Africa. She came to America when she was very young.

Today, there are more than fifty nations in Africa. Each nation has its own flag with a unique design and colors. The colors of the flag often have special meaning. On some flags, green stands for plants and trees. Yellow can stand for the sun. Red can mean the blood of the people. Blue usually means the sea. White stands for peace and black stands for freedom.

There is great diversity in the way people look and the languages they speak. Skin color ranges from white to very black. People there may live in tiny villages or they may live in huge cities with skyscrapers. Just like people in the United States, some are farmers, some are doctors, and some are truck drivers.

Africa has some of the most beautiful land on our planet. There are tall mountains and the world's deepest lake. Across the middle is a huge desert. Diamond mines and other natural resources are plentiful. Just as important as the land, there is a wealth of animals like zebras, lions, and elephants. I hope to visit Africa someday so I can see where my ancestors lived.

## Strawberry Jam

Dad never liked the jam we bought at the grocery store. He said it just didn't taste as good as the jam his grandmother used to make. When we told Grandma, she said she would show us how to make real homemade strawberry jam. She said we could make the jam as soon as the strawberries were ripe.

When the berries were ripe we all drove out to the farm to pick fresh strawberries. Grandma knows where to go to get the good ones. She showed us how to choose the reddest ones to make the best jam. The farmer gave us buckets and told us which rows we could search for berries.

It took us a while to fill our buckets. The nice thing about picking the berries is that we were allowed to eat a few. They were delicious.

Grandma finally said we had enough berries to make jam. The farmer weighed our buckets and told us how much to pay. Dad asked if he wanted to weigh me too for all the berries I had eaten. The farmer just laughed.

When we got home, Mom had jars and sugar set aside to make the jam. Grandma washed the berries and showed me how to hull them. Next we measured everything into a big pot and started to cook the jam. When it was finished we poured the hot jam into jars and sealed the jars with metal lids. Of course, we had to try some jam on toast after it cooled. Our jam was much better than any in the store.

## The Dragon

When it's time to celebrate the Chinese New Year, make-believe dragons appear everywhere. The dragons are not scary, though. They bring good luck and are not alive. There's no such thing as a real, live dragon. All dragons are make-believe. In China, dragons are very important. They have been part of the Chinese culture for thousands of years.

Dragons appear in Chinese New Year parades and celebrations. They have large gold and red heads with long fangs. Sometimes a dragon is so long it stretches for an entire city block! Dozens of people walk underneath the dragon holding up its big head and long body. They walk down the street, weaving back and forth. All you can see are the dragon and the legs and feet of the people. Sometimes puffs of smoke come out of the dragon's mouth.

Dragons are important in Korea, too. Koreans believe a blue dragon protects them from enemies on the eastern border of their country. The white tiger is said to protect Korea on the western side. In Korea there are blue dragons on the eastern walls of some buildings and white tigers on the western walls.

One way to tell the difference between a Chinese and Korean dragon is by the different number of claws they have. Dragons from China have five claws on each foot. Those from Korea have only four.

## The Sun Dance

We are studying the history of the Lakota-Sioux at school. The Lakota-Sioux lived on the Great Plains. The Great Plains are located in the Midwest. They are mostly flat, with no mountains. At one time, the Great Plains were covered with grasslands as far as the eye could see.

Huge herds of buffalo were once found on the plains. Buffalo were very important to the Lakota-Sioux. The buffalo provided meat that could be cooked and eaten right away or dried and eaten later. Their hides provided clothing and shelter. The buffalo bones were used to make tools. Nothing was wasted. Hunting the buffalo was critical for the well-being of the tribe.

Before a buffalo hunt, the Lakota-Sioux performed the Sun Dance. They made masks that looked like buffalo skulls. The masks were colored with special dyes made from clay or plants. Black meant the earth and red stood for the people. Small dots painted on the masks stood for prayers. They hung feathers from the horns for decoration. The hunters believed that when they wore the masks the buffalo would not be afraid or run away.

The Lakota-Sioux also carried charms when they went hunting. They believed the charms brought them luck. The charms might be shells or rocks or carved bones. Small pieces of animal skins were shaped into bags that the hunters wore around their necks. Grass or leather strips were used to lace them shut. They were decorated with beads made from nuts and seeds. A few herbs from a healer were often added.

## Nicknames

When I was born I was named after my grandfather. Most people call me by my nickname instead of my real name, though. I got my nickname when I was about six months old and starting to eat solid foods. My mother would dip the spoon into my baby food and start to bring a bite to my mouth. Before the spoon even touched my lips, I would open my mouth very wide and make a little noise.

My mother said to my father, “Look at him eat. Isn’t he cute?”

My father said, “He looks just like a baby robin in his nest waiting for a juicy worm.”

After that, my father started calling me Bird as a nickname. He mostly kept it to himself, but then my grandfather began calling me Bird. Finally, even my mother called me Bird.

Now I’m in the third grade and most of my classmates call me Bird. Only my teacher uses my real name. I am so used to my nickname that when my teacher calls on me I sometimes don’t realize she is talking to me.

Whenever my parents really want my attention, they call me by my real name. When they call me by my full name and even use my middle name I know I’d better pay attention.

## I Have My Own Savings Account

I earn extra money by doing chores for people. I babysit for my cousin, walk my neighbor's dog, and I rake leaves for another neighbor. Last week I made fifteen dollars doing chores. When I got a birthday card from my great grandma, it had ten dollars inside. The next day Mom paid me five dollars for cleaning the garage. That makes thirty dollars.

Dad said we should open a savings account so nothing happens to my thirty dollars. He says that is a lot of money for a kid. He said it would also make it easier for me to save my money if it is in the bank. I would like to save enough money to buy a skateboard. It will be hard not to spend it on movies and magazines, though.

We went to the credit union and opened a savings account in my name. Dad filled out some forms and I gave my money to the man at the credit union. He gave me a little book with my name in it to keep track of my money. He also gave me a cool pen and a calendar with all the high school football games on it.

My dad said if I leave the money in my account the credit union will pay me interest on the thirty dollars, even if I don't save any more money. I am proud of the money I have saved. Over time, the interest will add up. Pretty soon I'll have saved enough money to buy a skateboard.

## I'm Proud to Be an American

My country is the United States of America. The United States is made up of fifty different states. The states are like smaller countries within a great big nation. Some states are very small, like Rhode Island. Some are very large, like Alaska. The United States has deserts, mountains, rivers, plains, forests, and oceans. It has cities with skyscrapers and villages without any stoplights.

All of us in the United States are Americans, no matter where we live. We just don't all look the same. Americans come in every color and race. English is our official language but many of us speak different languages. Some people even speak sign language. We have many different customs and traditions. Sometimes we celebrate different holidays.

Some Americans have ancestors who have lived here for thousands of years, like the Native Americans. Some Americans have ancestors who came here on ships from other lands looking for new homes, and a place to be free. Some Americans were born in other countries and arrived just a few months ago.

Our country is so big I'll probably never get to visit it all. So far I've been to six different states. On our next family trip I hope to visit two more states. Even though every state was different, all of the people we met were proud of their homes and their heritage. I'm proud that I'm an American.

## Dream Catchers

We made dream catchers at our club meeting last week. Do you know what a dream catcher is? It's a round wooden hoop with a web woven all across it. Usually the web is made of strips of leather. Feathers and glass beads hang below.

Some people believed that both good and bad dreams floated around every night while they slept. They hung dream catchers over their beds to catch the dreams. They believed that the bad dreams would get trapped in the web and would not be able to get out. The bad dreams would disappear when the sun came up. That way, their sleep would be pleasant and untroubled.

Happy dreams were also thought to drift around during the night. The dream catcher was supposed to help the pleasant dreams float down through the feathers. Happy dreams would land on the person sleeping below. Dream catchers were often hung over newborn babies and newly married couples.

At our club meeting, we made our dream catchers out of paper plates. First we cut the centers out. Then we punched sixteen holes all around the outside. We wove a piece of yarn through all the holes, going back and forth to make a web. Then we tied a feather and beads through a bottom hole and let them hang below. I put mine over my bed and I haven't had a bad dream since.

## Clouds and Weather

The clouds that float across the sky look like fluffy balls of cotton. Clouds are not made of cotton, though. They are filled with tiny droplets of water and tiny ice crystals. The water droplets form when warm moist air rises and cools. When the droplets become too large, they fall out of the sky as rain or snow.

There are three main types of clouds. The different types of clouds form at different heights in the air. One type of cloud is high and feathery. The high feathery clouds are so high they contain only ice crystals. High feathery clouds usually mean rain is coming.

Big fluffy clouds float midway to low in the sky. Sometimes they look like pillows or sheep. Sometimes they look like mashed potatoes, or angels. They can look like just about anything at all. Once I saw a big fluffy cloud that looked like a birthday cake with ten candles. Another type of cloud looks like sheets across a gray sky. These clouds usually hang low in the skies and move very slowly.

Clouds provide important information that people use to predict the weather. Observers from around the world report on the clouds and wind. Pictures of the clouds taken from outer space show patterns in the clouds where the winds are blowing. Weather stations from all over can tell how fast the wind is blowing and how much water is in the air.

## Firefighters

Firefighters are always busy, even when there are no fires to put out. After each fire, the firefighters have to dry their fire hoses. They also clean their trucks and inspect their tools. The air tanks and the water tanks must be refilled. Even the boots, hats, and coats must be cleaned and checked. Everything must be ready for the next call.

When they are not at fires, firefighters spend time getting ready for the next call. They also provide training in fire prevention and fire safety. They go to schools and businesses to make people aware of all they can do to prevent fires. They know the best way to respond to a fire is to keep it from happening in the first place.

When there is a call, the firefighters really get busy. The firefighters must get to the fire as quickly as possible. If the fire is in a building, the first job is to make sure everyone is safe and out of the building. They also try to prevent the fire from spreading. The firefighters hook up their hoses in front of the building and quickly put out the fire. Everything must be fast and organized.

After the fire is out, firefighters must check the building carefully and wait to make sure there is no fire left. Even one live ember can get the fire started all over again. After each call the firefighters go back to their station and clean up all over again.